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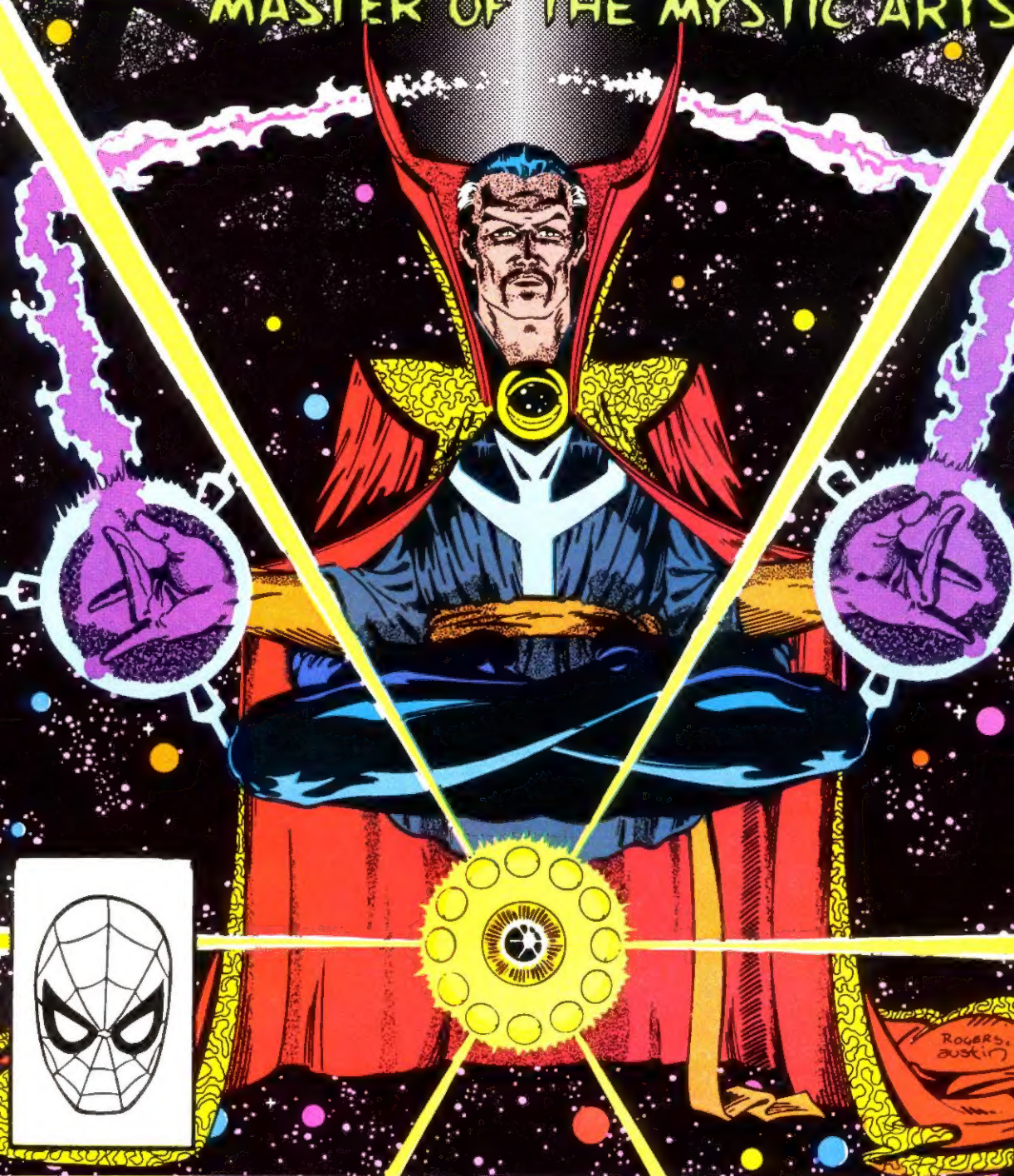
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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DOCTOR STRANGE

MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS



ROBERT AUSTIN

MANY AND DIVERSE ARE THE EFFECTS OF POWER ON MEN! FOR SOME, POWER IS A DYNAMIC CREATING SPARK... FOR OTHERS, IT IS AN ALL-CORRUPTING CURSE.

FOR DR. STEPHEN STRANGE,
MASTER OF ALL MYSTIC ARTS
AND OCCULT SCIENCES--

--AND FOR CLEA, HIS
EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL
COMPANION AND
DISCIPLE--

--POWER
IS BUT A
MEANS TO
AN END...
A FORCE FOR
RENEWING
PRECIOUS
ENERGIES!

BUT TO
ANOTHER BEING, SKULKING AND WATCHING
FROM THE FOCUS OF A THOUSAND THOUSAND
DIMENSIONS, POWER MEANS CONTROL...
DOMINANCE...AND VEGRATATION!

THIS MENACE REBORN!

A ROGER STERN • MARSHALL ROGERS •
TERRY AUSTIN PRODUCTION!

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BOB SHAREN • COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM • EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NEED WE EVEN MENTION...? PRESENTED BY STAN LEE!

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BUT THE INTRUDING
GAZE OF THAT DARKLING
BEING GOES UNNOTICED
BY STRANGE AND CLEA.

WHILE THEIR PHYSICAL FORMS
RESIDE SAFELY IN STRANGE'S
GREENWICH VILLAGE SANCTUM,
THEIR ASTRAL BODIES SOAR--
CASTING OFF THE BONDS OF
EGO, JOURNEYING TOGETHER
AS ONE!

AS THIS JOINT MIND
TRAVELS THROUGH THE
BOUNDLESS REALMS OF
THOUGHT, IT GROWS AND
EXPANDS... ITS ESSENCE
BUILDING AND BUILDING
UNTIL IT IS FINALLY
SUFFUSED IN A FINAL
SURGE OF...

...PURE...

...WHITE...

...LIGHT!

AND THEN, THE TWO MINDS
SLIP FREE OF ONE
ANOTHER... BOTH INDIVI-
DUALS EXPERIENCING A
NEW WEALTH OF STRENGTH
AND ENERGY!

ON A PLANE OF EXISTENCE
JUST BEYOND THIS REALITY,
TWO ASTRAL FORMS
GENTLY SMILE, AND ALLOW
THEMSELVES TO BE DRAWN--

--BACK TO THE PHYSICAL NOW!

THAT WAS
WONDERFUL,
STEPHEN.
WHAT DID
YOU CALL
IT?

A TANTRIC EX-
ERCISE, CLEA!
IT'S QUITE
USEFUL FOR
MYSTIC GROWTH!

WELL, I THINK
WE SHOULD
TRY THAT
EXERCISE
MORE
OFTEN.

PERHAPS WE SHALL. BUT I BE-
LIEVE YOU HAVE MORE DISCI-
PLINED ARTS TO STUDY... NO?

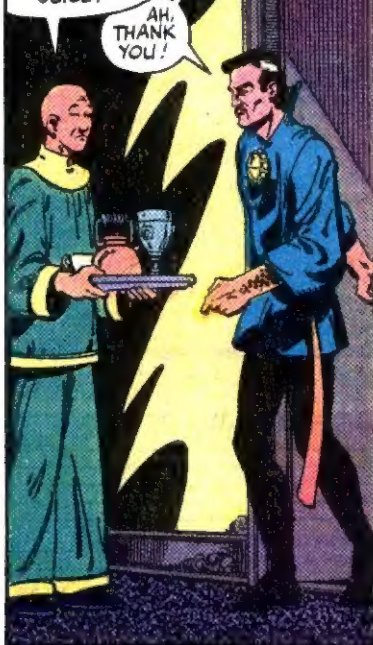
!SIGH!
YES... AS
YOU SAY!

I HARDLY BLAME CLEA... I FIND GREAT FULFILLMENT IN SUCH EXERCISES MYSELF. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A DANGER OF GETTING TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING!

GOOD MORNING, WONG!

GOOD MORNING, MASTER! YOUR JUICE!

AH, THANK YOU!



TELL ME, HAS SARA ARRIVED YET?

YES, MASTER. MS. WOLFE IS IN THE DOWNSTAIRS STUDY, GOING OVER YOUR ACCOUNTS.

IS THAT A LIGHTER NOTE I DETECT IN YOUR VOICE, WONG? COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY STARTING TO LIKE MY NEW BUSINESS MANAGER?

I WAS NOT AWARE THAT I HAD SHOWN ANY DISLIKE, MASTER. ADMITTEDLY, SHE IS QUITE GOOD AT HANDLING YOUR MORE MUNDANE AFFAIRS.



THE MUNDANE IS ALWAYS WITH US, WONG. THAT IS BOTH THE CURSE AND THE BLESSING OF MORTALITY.

I SHALL BE WITHIN, IF I AM NEEDED.

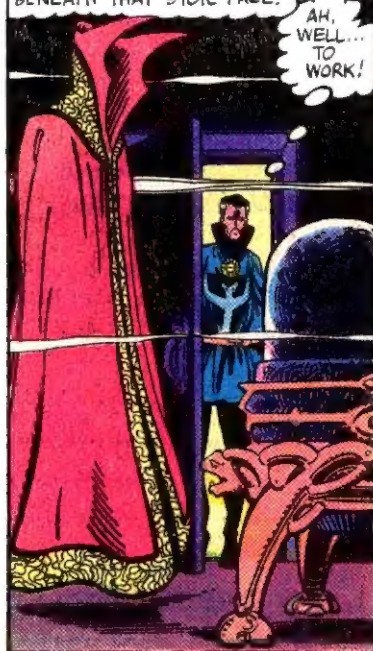


YES, MASTER!

SWINGING OPEN AT HIS TOUCH, THE DOOR ADMITS DR. STRANGE TO A SOMBER CHAMBER, WHERE WAIT HIS CLOAK OF LEVITATION AND THE ENCHANTED ORB OF AGAMOTTO...

I SENSE THAT WONG HAS GROWN AS FOND OF SARA, AS CLEA AND I HAVE. YET, AS EVER, HE HIDES HIS FEELINGS BENEATH THAT STOIC FACE.

AH, WELL... TO WORK!



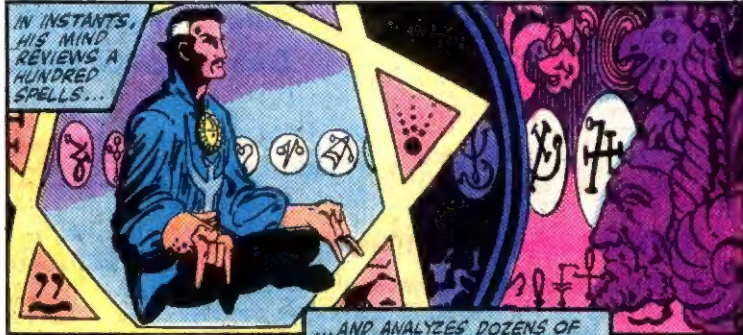
ASSUMING A LOTUS POSITION, THE DOCTOR CLEARS HIS MIND OF EARTHLY CONCERNS-- AND, ACHIEVING A STATE OF NIRVANA, HIS FORM SLOWLY RISES FROM THE FLOOR.



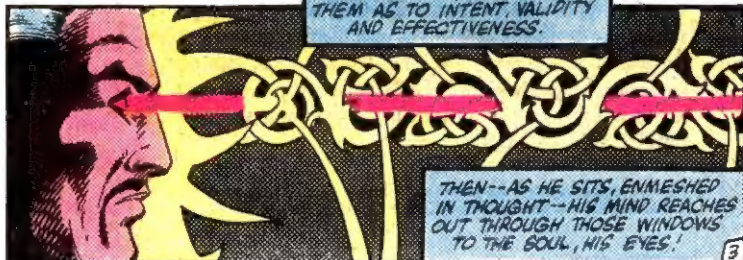
THUS DOES THE MYSTIC MASTER BEGIN HIS "WORK DAY."

HIS BODY AT TOTAL REST, HIS MENTAL ENERGIES RUSH THROUGH EVERY NEURON OF HIS BRAIN!

IN INSTANTS, HIS MIND REVIEWS A HUNDRED SPELLS...



...AND ANALYZES DOZENS OF MAGICAL ARTS, CATEGORIZING THEM AS TO INTENT, VALIDITY AND EFFECTIVENESS.



THEN--AS HE SITS, ENMESHED IN THOUGHT--HIS MIND REACHES OUT THROUGH THOSE WINDOWS TO THE SOUL, HIS EYES!

LIKE BLAZING BEACONS, THEY REACH OUT TO THE NECROMANTIC ENERGIES OF THE ALL-SEEING ORB--

--WHICH AT ONCE ARISES READY TO REVEAL TO ITS MASTER THE MANY MYSTIC DIMENSIONS SURROUNDING THE EARTH!

AND THEN, PEERING INTO THE ORB, DR. STRANGE MAKES ONE OF HIS PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF THE NEARBY REALMS!

ALL SEEMS WELL WITHIN THE DOZEN ADJACENT PLANES! I SEE THAT THE SHADES OF RABOK CONTINUE THEIR MIGRATION INTO THE NEGATIVE UNIVERSE!

NO. NOTHING SEEMS AT ALL UNUSUAL.

EH? WHAT'S THAT?

KNOCK KNOCK

WHAT IS IT, SARA?

EEP! H-H-HOW'D YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?

NEITHER WONG NOR CLEA WOULD KNOCK DURING MY STUDIES, SAVE FOR THE GRAVEST CAUSE... AND I SENSE NO SUCH EMERGENCY.

S-SO, IT HAD TO BE ME, HUH? I'M SORRY, BUT YOU HAD A PHONE CALL, AND I THOUGHT--!

AND SO...

DR. STEPHEN STRANGE SPEAKING!

HELLO, DOCTOR! THIS IS MORGANA BLESSING... I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER ME!

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, SARA. I WAS ALMOST FINISHED.

AND I DOUBT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING REQUIRING MY FURTHER ATTENTION HERE!

I'M AFRAID I DON'T, MS. BLESSING!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I NEVER GAVE YOU MY NAME! WE MET THE OTHER DAY AT THE BANK -- I'M THE ONE WHO...ER...PASSED OUT DURING THE HOLD-UP! *

NOW DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

*LAST ISSUE -- AL.

YES... QUITE VIVIDLY. WHAT MAY I DO FOR YOU, MS. BLESSING?

IF IT'S A MEDICAL MATTER, I MUST WARN YOU... I'M NO LONGER PRACTICING!

OH, NOTHING LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST... WELL, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'RE AN EXPERT IN THE OCCULT!

AH... I HAVE GAINED A BIT OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE SO-CALLED BLACK ARTS!

WHAT DOES THIS WOMAN WANT? WHEN SHE FAINTED AT THE BANK, I'D HAVE SWORN IT WAS BECAUSE SHE "SAW" MY INVISIBLE ASTRAL BODY!

I HOPE SHE'S NOT ANOTHER WOULD-BE MYSTIC, IN SEARCH OF A GURU!

BUT, AS DR. STRANGE WAITS FOR MORGANA'S NEXT WORDS, HE IS UNAWARE THAT THEIR CONVERSATION IS NO LONGER PRIVATE!



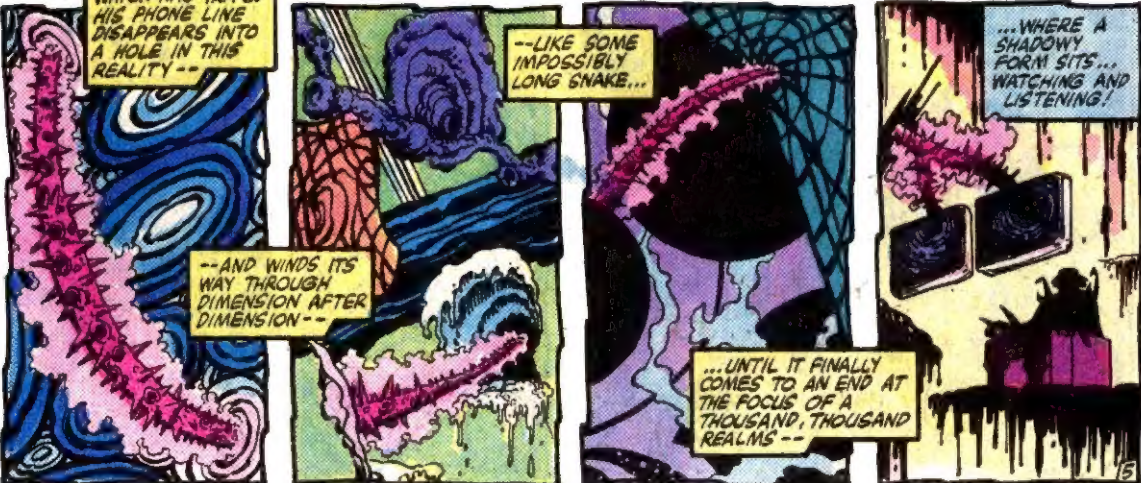
THE ODDLY GLOWING TENDRIL WHICH HAS TAPPED HIS PHONE LINE DISAPPEARS INTO A HOLE IN THIS REALITY --

--LIKE SOME IMPOSSIBLY LONG SNAKE...

--AND WINDS ITS WAY THROUGH DIMENSION AFTER DIMENSION --

...UNTIL IT FINALLY COMES TO AN END AT THE FOCUS OF A THOUSAND, THOUSAND REALMS --

...WHERE A SHADOWY FORM SITS... WATCHING AND LISTENING!



YOU SEE,
I'M A
WRITER!

YES? GO
ON...

AT LAST! AFTER
ALL MY SEARCHING,
I HAVE FINALLY
FOUND A WAY TO
SPY ON STRANGE'S
PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES!

AND THE LONGER
MY ELDritch PROBE
REMAINS IN CONTACT
WITH THE EARTH--THE
STRONGER MY HOLD
ON THE PHYSICAL WORLD
WILL GROW!

SOON, I WILL BE
ABLE TO RETURN TO
THE EARTH! THEN, I
SHALL HAVE MY
REVENGE ON DR.
STRANGE!

THEN SHALL
**BARON
MORDO**
TRIUMPH!!

FOR TOO MANY YEARS,
STRANGE HAS STOOD IN
MY WAY, THWARTING MY
PLANS TO CONQUER OUR
WORLD THROUGH MAGIC!



"THE
LAST TIME
WE DID
BATTLE, I
CAME SO
CLOSE TO
TRAPPING DR.
STRANGE WITH-
IN THE ICY GRASP
OF DEATH!"

"WHEN HE COUNTERED
MY MAGIC, I RESORTED
TO PHYSICAL MEANS--
STRIKING HIM DOWN
LIKE A DOG! BUT BEFORE
I COULD DELIVER THE
FINAL BLOW--



"--THE DARK SPELLS
WHICH I HAD SET INTO
MOTION WERE SUDDENLY
SHATTERED,
CREATING A RIP IN THE
FABRIC OF SPACE AND
TIME!"

"I WAS SWEPT
AWAY FROM MY
FOE, HELPLESS
IN THE GRIP OF
AN INTERDIMEN-
SIONAL VORTEX!"

"BUT AS I WAS
TOSSED ABOUT
BY THAT COSMIC
WHIRLPOOL, I
SUDDENLY FELT
A GREAT POWER
SEIZE ME,
NUMBING MY
MIND!"

AND WHEN I AWOKED, I
FOUND MYSELF AT THIS
FOCAL POINT OF INFINITY!
HERE, THE ENERGIES OF A
MILLION DIMENSIONS HAVE
WASHED OVER MY BODY--

--SUSTAINING ME, FILLING
ME WITH POWER SUCH AS
FEW MEN COULD IMAGINE!
I HAVE NOW BECOME MORE
THAN HUMAN... A FORCE
UNTO MYSELF!



ALL I NEED
DO NOW IS
WAIT FOR THE
PROPER MOMENT
IN WHICH TO
STRIKE!

... SO, YOU SEE, I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME WITH THE RESEARCH FOR MY NEXT BOOK! IT'S FICTION, BUT I WANT IT TO HAVE AN AIR OF AUTHENTICITY!

AN ADMIRABLE GOAL, MS. BLESSING, BUT I'M REALLY NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF CONSULTING ON OCCULT MATTERS... UNLESS A DANGER TO LIFE IS INVOLVED!

HOWEVER, I CAN RECOMMEND SEVERAL EXCELLENT TEXTS!

OH, I'VE ALREADY READ COLIN WILSON'S WORK, AND A SCORE OF OTHERS!

WHAT I'M REALLY LOOKING FOR IS A MORE ... PERSONAL TOUCH.

HAH! THE WOMAN HAS MORE THAN A PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IN MY OLD FOE! THIS WILL PLAY RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!

SO FAR, I'VE HIDDEN MY POWER FROM THE GOOD DOCTOR ...

... BUT A SINGLE MAGICAL PULSE SHALL CHANGE ALL THAT!

BY THE VISHANTI! WHAT--?

BUT, DOCTOR... ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?

COULDN'T WE AT LEAST TAKE A LUNCH?

ON SECOND THOUGHT, PERHAPS WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER!

MY MORNING IS FREE ... I COULD COME RIGHT OVER, IF THAT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT WITH YOU!

RIGHT NOW?! REALLY? W-WHY, YES! THAT WOULD BE PERFECT! I'M JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, IN SOHO! LET ME GIVE YOU THE ADDRESS!

THERE WAS A SUD-DEN SORCEROUS PRESENCE ON THE LINE! DOES THIS WOMAN HAVE SOME LATENT POWER?

AND SO, AS THE MAGE COMPLETES THE CALL, AND MENTALLY COMMANDS HIS CAPE TO DRAPE ABOUT HIM...

THERE IS A PECULIAR ANOMALY HERE! WHEN I SPOKE TO THE BLESSING WOMAN IN THE BANK, SHE SEEMED PERFECTLY NORMAL, DESPITE MY SUSPICION THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO SEE MY ASTRAL IMAGE!



AND YET, THE DISTURBANCE I FELT OVER THE PHONE WAS DEFINITELY MAGICAL IN NATURE! ALMOST--

"...DEMONICAL!"

I COULD NOT HAVE WISHED FOR A BETTER OPPORTUNITY! I AM LURING STRANGE AWAY FROM HIS PROTECTIVE SANCTUM!



I SHALL FACE HIM IN THE BLESSING WOMAN'S HOME ...AND REDUCE HIM TO NOTHINGNESS!



MEANWHILE...

SARA, I HAVE TO GO OUT ON AN ERRAND... I SHOULD BE BACK SHORTLY!

WHAT? OH... OH, SURE!



I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE WAY HE JUST MAGICALLY CHANGES HIS CLOTHING!

AND SHORTLY, JUST A FEW BLOCKS SOUTH OF NEW YORK'S HOUSTON STREET...

HMMM... WHATEVER ELSE MORGANA BLESSING MAY BE, SHE MUST CERTAINLY BE PROSPEROUS TO LIVE IN THIS BUILDING!



THE RENT FOR APARTMENTS IN THESE CONVERTED FACTORY LOFTS IS OUT OF REACH FOR ALL BUT A FORTUNATE FEW!



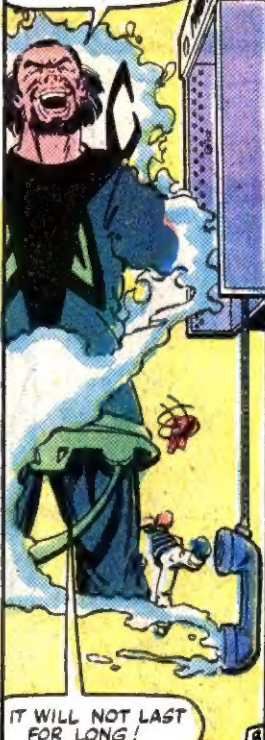
BUT AS STRANGE ENTERS THE BUILDING, ENTERS THE PAY PHONE AT THE PAY PHONE ACROSS THE STREET...

HELLO, LITTLE ONE! GREETINGS FROM YOUR FUTURE MASTER!

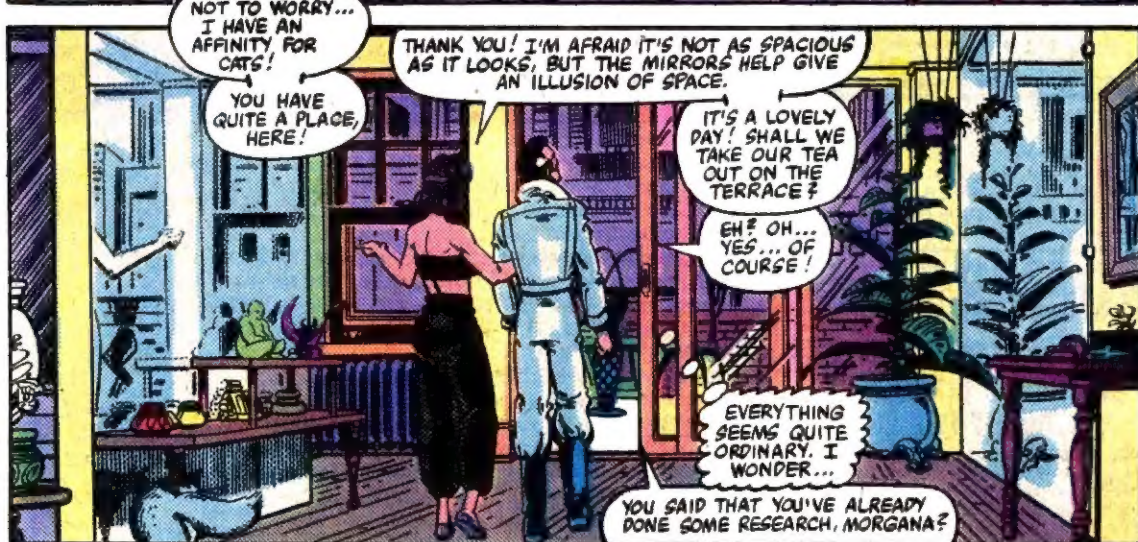
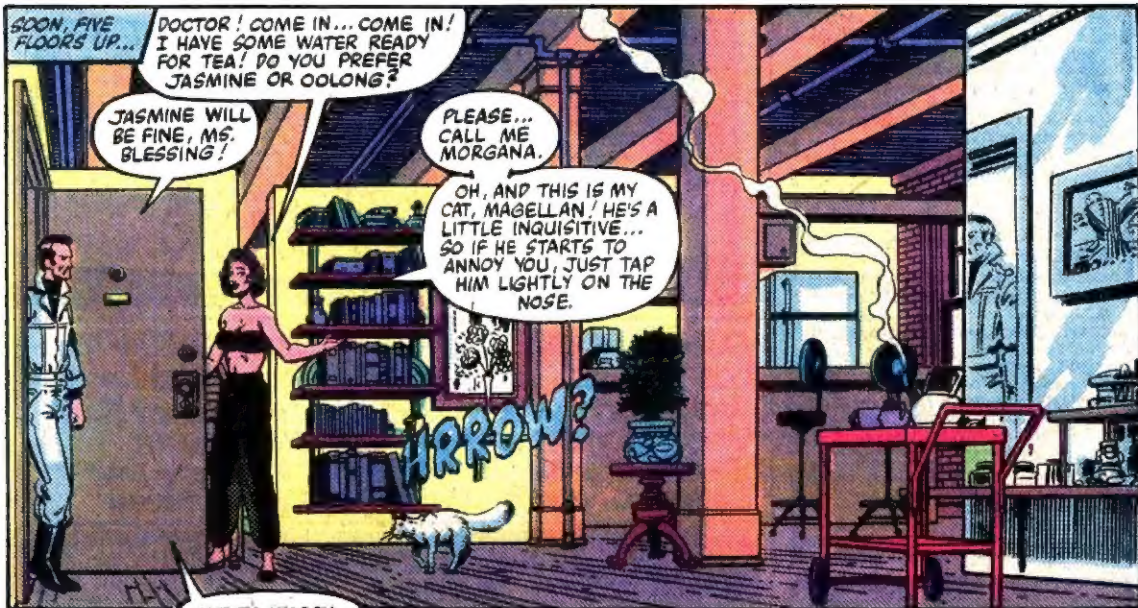


HUH?!

HAH-HA-HA! YES, RUN! BY ALL MEANS, RUN AND ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM!



IT WILL NOT LAST FOR LONG!



SOON, FIVE FLOORS UP...
DOCTOR! COME IN... COME IN!
I HAVE SOME WATER READY
FOR TEA! DO YOU PREFER
JASMINE OR OOLONG?

JASMINE WILL
BE FINE, MS.
BLESSING!

PLEASE...
CALL ME
MORGANA.

OH, AND THIS IS MY
CAT, MAGELLAN! HE'S A
LITTLE INQUISITIVE...
SO IF HE STARTS TO
ANNOY YOU, JUST TAP
HIM LIGHTLY ON THE
NOSE.

HRRROW?

NOT TO WORRY...
I HAVE AN
AFFINITY FOR
CATS!

YOU HAVE
QUITE A PLACE,
HERE!

THANK YOU! I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT AS SPACIOUS
AS IT LOOKS, BUT THE MIRRORS HELP GIVE
AN ILLUSION OF SPACE.

IT'S A LOVELY
DAY! SHALL WE
TAKE OUR TEA
OUT ON THE
TERRACE?

EH? OH...
YES... OF
COURSE!

EVERYTHING
SEEMS QUITE
ORDINARY. I
WONDER...

YOU SAID THAT YOU'VE ALREADY
DONE SOME RESEARCH, MORGANA?

OH, YES! IN FACT, I'VE PICKED UP A NUMBER OF
INTERESTING ARTIFACTS AND TOTEMS... SEE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM?

THESE ARE
MERELY
CHEAP COPIES
OF SOME
MINOR
EASTERN
OBJETS
D'ART!

NOTHING AT
ALL MAGICAL
HERE!

BUT IF MOR-
GANA IS A
NORMAL,
WHAT COULD
I HAVE
SENSED?

I'M SORRY,
MORGANA--

-- BUT I'M
AFRAID YOU
WASTED YOUR
MONEY! THESE
ARTIFACTS
ARE ONLY...

... EH?

YOU!!

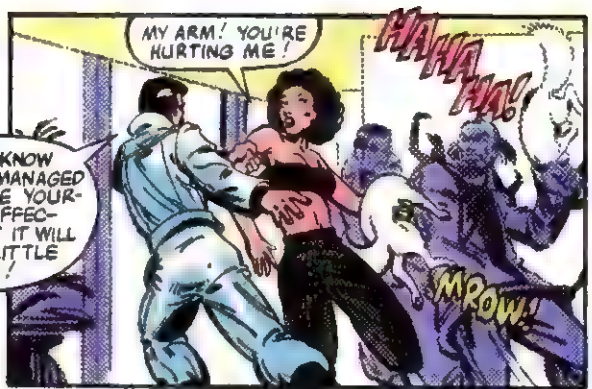


I BEG YOUR PARDON, DOCTOR? WHAT IS A MORDO?

UH... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

DOCTOR?

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO DISGUISE YOURSELF SO EFFECTIVELY, BUT IT WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD!



MY ARM! YOU'RE HURTING ME!

HAWA HAWA
MROW!



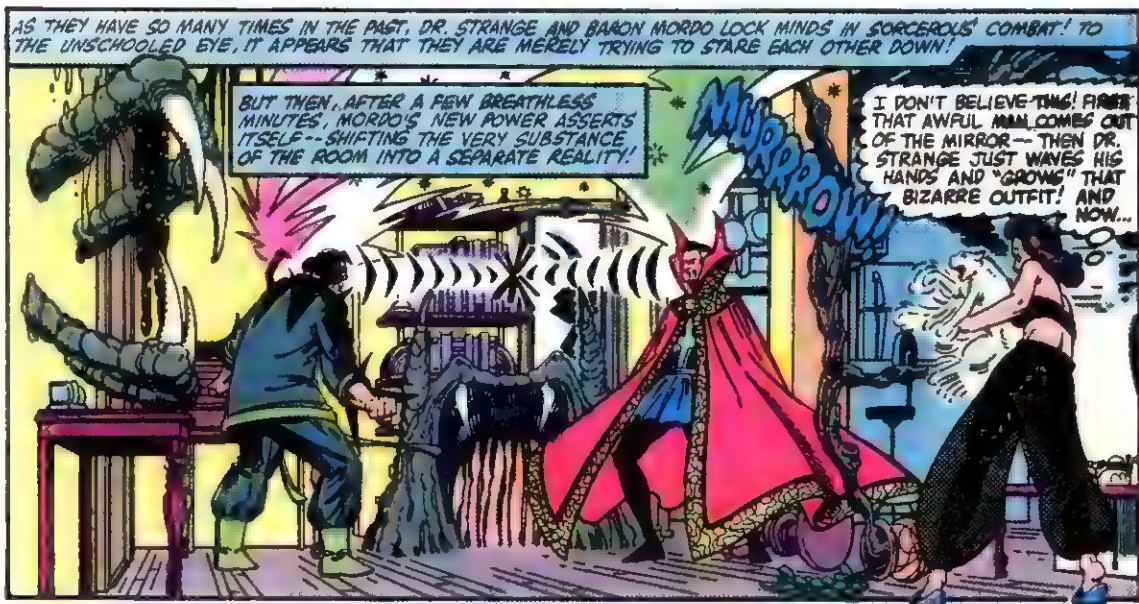
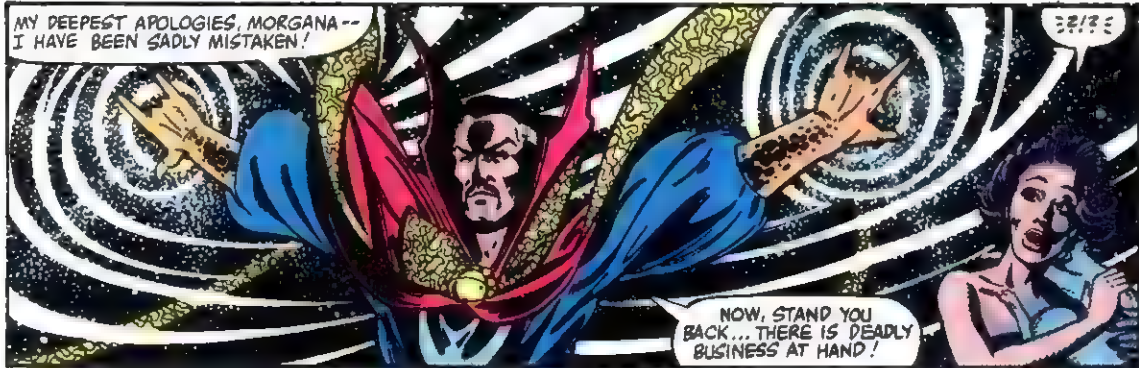
YOU'RE EASIER TO FOOL THAN YOU REALIZE, STRANGE! THE LADY IS NOT ME!

YOU SEE?



MORDO IS HERE!!
PREPARE TO FACE YOUR BETTER!

THAT... WHO... WHAT? MY MIRROR! HE'S... STEPPING THROUGH MY MIRROR!



HELP!

DOWN PLUNGES MORGANA
--DOWN THROUGH THE
EERIE UNREALITY,
SCREAMING UNTIL HER THROAT
ACHES! AND THEN...

I'VE FOUND HER
JUST IN TIME...
SHE'S NEARLY
PETRIFIED WITH
FRIGHT, AND WHO
CAN BLAME HER?

MORGANA,
ANYTHING I
MIGHT SAY
WOULD SEEM
MEANINGLESS
TO YOU, BUT
YOU MUST
BELIEVE THIS--

--I WILL GET YOU
OUT OF THIS SAFELY!
I SWEAR IT!

AN EMPTY
BOAST, STRANGE!
TO DELIVER, YOU
MUST DEFEAT
ME... AND YOU
CANNOT!

IT IS APPROPRI-
ATE THAT YOU SHOULD
BE THE ONE TO SPEAK
OF BOASTS, MORDO!
TIME AND AGAIN, YOU
HAVE PROMISED MY
DOWNFALL--TIME
AND AGAIN YOU
HAVE FAILED!

JUST AS YOUR
ATTACK FAILS TO
PIERCE MY
SERAPHIMIC
SHIELD!

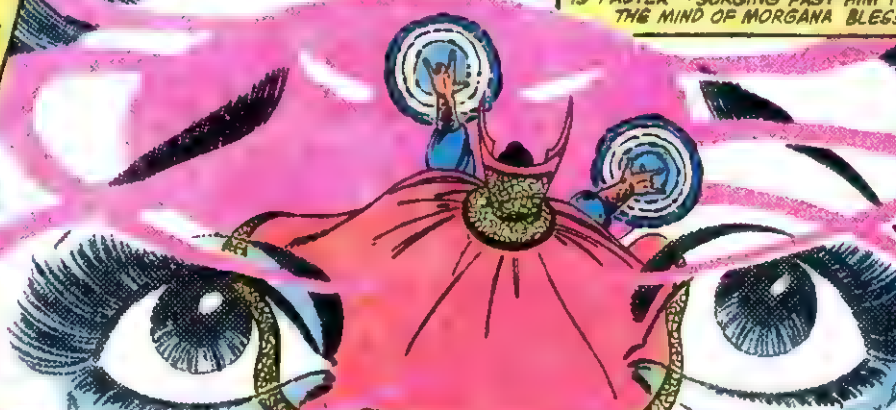
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE
REMINDED ME OF MY
FAILURES, STRANGE! I
HAD CONSIDERED SHOWING
YOU SOME SMALL
MERCY... NOW THERE
SHALL BE NONE!

I HAVE SPENT EVERY MOMENT OF THE
PAST FEW MONTHS BATHING IN A FLOW
OF ENERGIES BEYOND EVEN YOUR
IMAGININGS! I HAVE BECOME A
LIVING REPOSITORY OF MYSTIC
FORCE!

THIS IS A NEW
MORDO YOU FACE!
NO LONGER MUST I
CALL ON OTHER
POWERS... **I AM
POWER!**

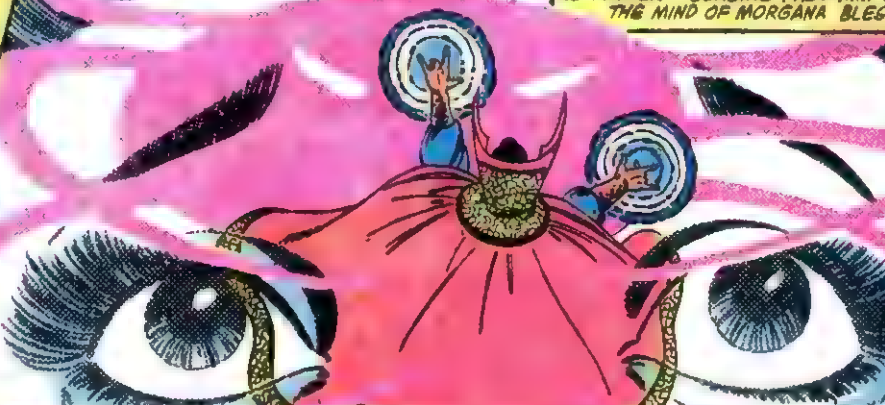
LIKE SOME HORRIFIC INSECT, MORDO'S SORCEROUS CONSTRUCT SKITTERS OVER THE MYSTIC MASTER!

AND DESPITE THE SPEED WITH WHICH STRANGE ERECTS HIS MYSTIC DEFENSES, THE CONSTRUCT IS FASTER--SURGING PAST HIM TO ATTACK THE MIND OF MORGANA BLESSING!



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HER SENSES REEL!

HER SKIN CRAWLS!

AND A BILLION TINY CREATURES SEEM TO BURROW AT HER VERY SOUL!

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I HAVE MADE AN UNCONSCIONABLE ERROR! BECAUSE I UNDERESTIMATED MY OLDEST FOE, AN INNOCENT HAS SUFFERED! MORDO HAS INDEED BECOME A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH!

AND YET, HE HURLS HIS MYSTIC ENERGIES IN A HAPHAZARD, RECKLESS MANNER! IN SPITE OF HIS POWER, HIS MIND IS STILL HUMAN!

I MUST PLAY ON HIS EMOTIONS... USE THEM AGAINST HIM!

YOU'VE CHANGED VERY LITTLE, MORDO! YOU STILL CONJURE LIKE A NOVICE!

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YOU'VE CHANGED VERY LITTLE, MORDO! YOU STILL CONJURE LIKE A NOVICE!

A NOVICE? BAH, YOU ARE THE NOVICE STRANGE! I WAS THE FIRST DISCIPLE OF THE ACCURSED ANCIENT ONE...THE ONLY DISCIPLE BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG!

BY MY WILL, SHALL YOU DIE... WITHIN THE FANGS OF FARALLAH!

AND, AT MORDO'S COMMAND, MYSTICAL SERPENTINE JAWS APPEAR, ENTRAPPING STRANGE AND THE WOMAN WITH AN OZZING, EMERALD TONGUE!

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MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH, CLEA GOES ABOUT HER STUDIES, UNAWARE OF HER LOVER'S DANGER.

BUT THEN...

I FEEL AN ODD UNEASINESS...
UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED... ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE WERE TRYING TO REACH ME!

STEPHEN?

GARA, I CAN'T FIND STEPHEN!

HE WENT OUT ON AN ERRAND, CLEA. HE SHOULD BE BACK SOON.

I SEE.

ODD, STEPHEN DIDN'T MENTION ANY ERRAND EARLIER. WHAT COULD HAVE COME UP WHICH WOULD SO DEMAND HIS ATTENTION?

PERHAPS I'M WORRYING NEEDLESSLY. IF HE WERE IN NEED OF MY ASSISTANCE, HE WOULD CONTACT ME MENTALLY!

UNLESS... HE WERE UNABLE!

WELL, THERE'S ONE WAY TO ALLAY MY FEARS. IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO CONTACT ME, I CAN DISCOVER WHO AND WHY--

--BY CONSULTING STEPHEN'S MYSTIC ORB!

I MAY NOT HAVE STEPHEN'S EXPERTISE AT CONTROLLING THE ORB, BUT A SPELL AS SIMPLE AS THIS SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT!

GREAT AGAMOTTO OF THE BLESSED THREE, NOW IN YOUR ORB'S WARM GLOW REVEAL BESTILL MY HEART AND HEAR MY PLEA! THE SOURCE OF FURTIVE CRIES I FEEL!

IN RESPONSE TO HER INCANTATION, THE GLISTENING CRYSTAL SHINES EVER BRIGHTER, DISPLAYING THE WRAITHLIKE FORMS OF FOUR OTHER-WORLDLY BEINGS!

CLEA! VISHANTI! BE PRAISED, YOU HEARD US!

WE OF YOUR NATIVE REALM SEEK YOUR HELP!

THERE IS LITTLE TIME TO EXPLAIN! POOLING OUR MINDS IN THIS FASHION WAS AN AWFUL RISK... BUT ONE WE HAD TO CHANCE!

THE DREAD DORMAMMU HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED, LEAVING HIS SISTER UMAR TO RULE IN HIS STEAD!

AND UMAR IS CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED!

WE HAVE FORMED AN UNDERGROUND CADRE TO OVERTHROW UMAR AND SEAT A RULER WHO WOULD DARE TO OPPOSE DORMAMMU!

THUS, WE TURN TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP! YOU WERE THE FIRST AMONG US TO RESIST DORMAMMU'S WAYS!

YES, I REGISTERED DORMAMMU... ALONE! WHILE YOU BOWED BEFORE HIS THRONE, I DEFIED HIS DESPOTIC RULE!

AND FOR MY EFFORTS, I WAS IMPRISONED IN A CAGE OF ENCHANTMENT!

NONE OF YOU HAD THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO DORMAMMU THEN! ONLY DR STRANGE-- AN EARTHMAN-- DARED TO BATTLE THE DREAD ONE!

STEPHEN'S WISDOM AND COURAGE INSPIRED ME TO DEFIANCE... BUT YOU! YOU HELD YOUR TONGUES! YOU KNEW WHAT DORMAMMU WAS, AND STILL YOU SUPPORTED HIM! AND NOW, YOU ASK FOR MY HELP?

IF DORMAMMU IS TRULY GONE, YOU DO NOT NEED ME! FOR ONCE, LOOK WITHIN YOURSELVES, AND YOU WILL FIND THE STRENGTH YOU NEED TO RESIST HIM!

HER HEART HEAVY, CLEA TURNS HER BACK ON THE ORB, ENDING WHAT SHE THINKS IS HER LAST CONTACT WITH HER NATIVE LAND.

SHE IS WRONG... BUT JUST HOW WRONG, SHE WILL NOT KNOW FOR SOME TIME.

NOR DOES CLEA
REALIZE THAT, IN
LEAVING THE ORB,
SHE HAS JUST
MISSED A
WARNING FROM
THIS EERIE
OTHER-REALM!

YOUR ATTEMPT TO MENTALLY CONTACT
YOUR DISCIPLE WAS DOOMED FROM
THE START, STRANGE! YOUR BONDS
WEAKEN ANY SUCH CALL--

-- EVEN AS THEY
DRAW YOU INTO
THE OBLIVION OF
TOTAL MADNESS!!

LIKE A THING ALIVE, THE
GREEN TENDRILS PULL
STRANGE AND MORGANA
INTO THE Gaping MAW--
COVERING THEM BODILY AS
THEIR MINDS ARE BESET
WITH TORTURES BEYOND
BELIEF!

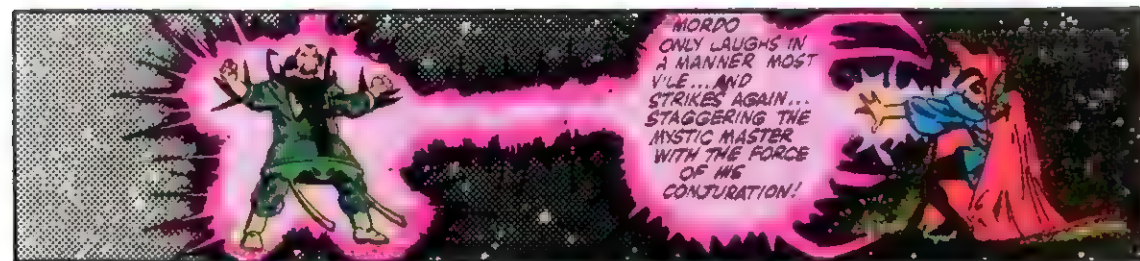
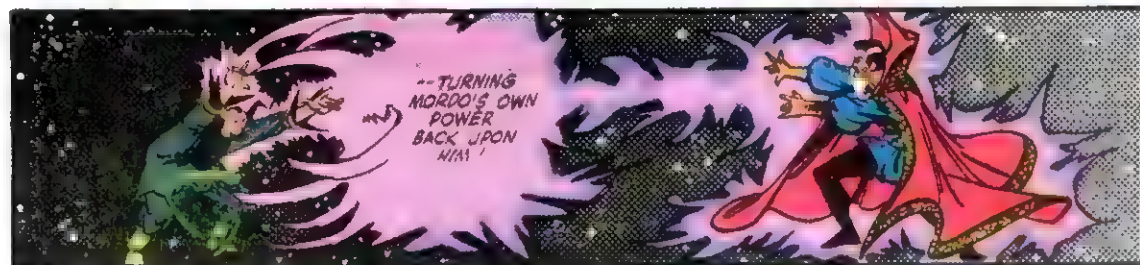
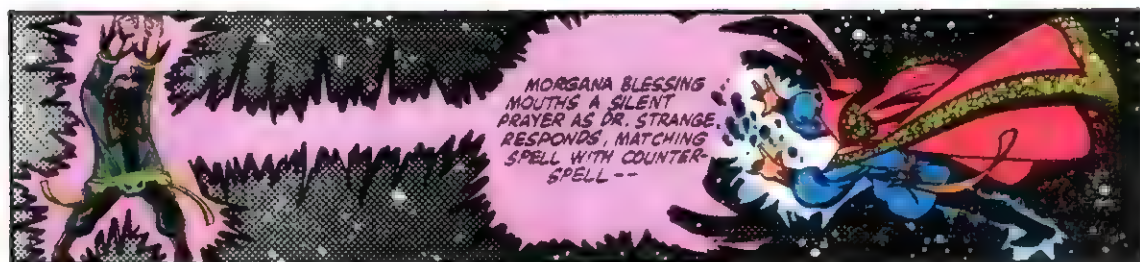
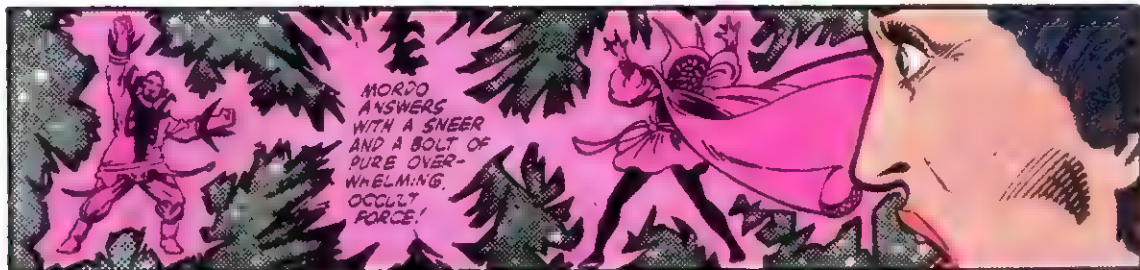
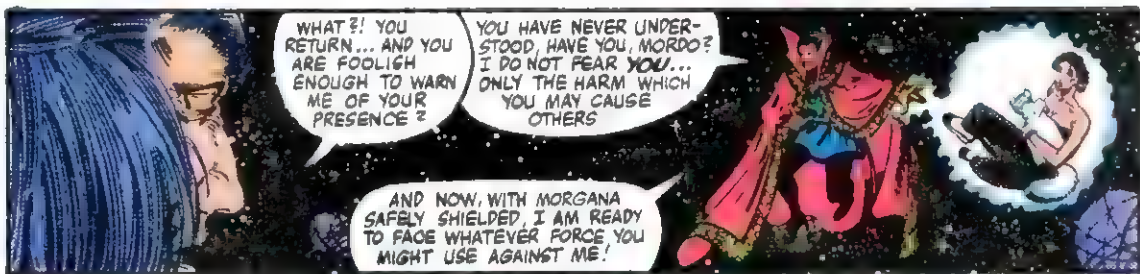
ONLY MY
PSYCHIC INFLUENCE IS
SAVING MORGANA
FROM IRREPARABLE
INSANITY! I MUST
END THIS... AND
SOON!

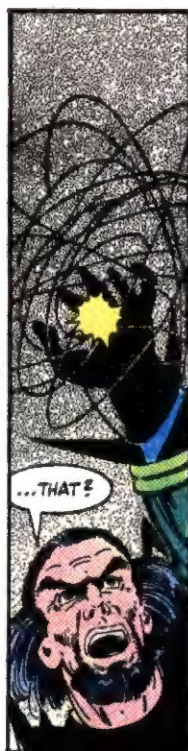
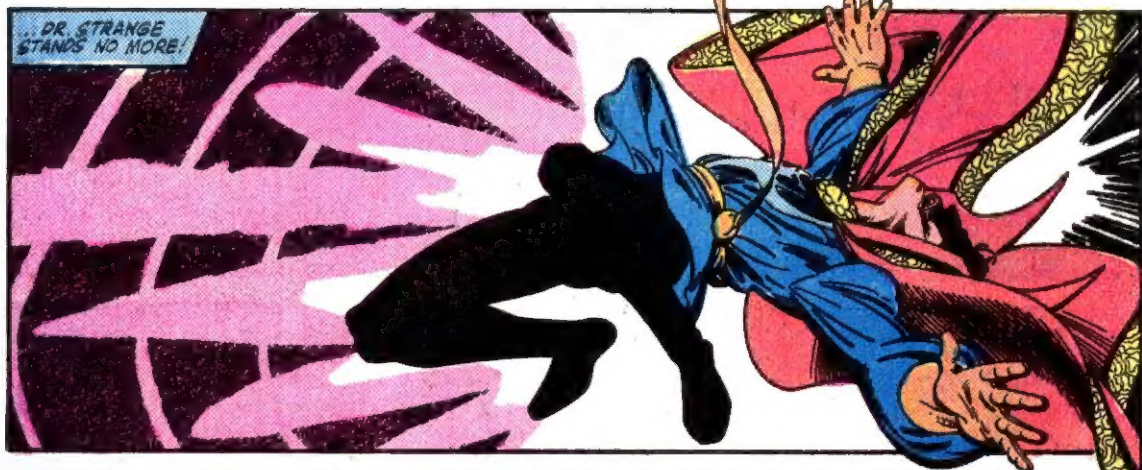
MORDO NO
DOUBT EXPECTS
ME TO RESIST
THIS MADNESS,
BUT I WILL
NOT!

INSTEAD, WITH MY
OWN ABILITIES
PROTECTING US WE
WILL RIDE OUT THIS
SPELL-- LETTING
ITS MOMENTUM
BUILD TO CARRY
US FROM
MADNESS...

MORDO!
IT IS OVER!
TURN AND
FACE ME!

...THROUGH THE NIGHT-
MARE REALM, AND THEN
TO FREEDOM-- LIKE A
SWIMMER RIDING WITH
THE FORCE OF THE
CRASHING TIDES!







YES, MORDO--
IT *CAN* BE!
YOUR POWER
HAS MADE
YOU CARE-
LESS!

HIDDEN BY THE GLARE OF
YOUR ATTACK, I LOOSED
MY ASTRAL FORM, RENDER-
ING MY *PHYSICAL* BODY
RESISTANT TO YOUR
MIND-DESTROYING
SPELLS!

THEN, I TOOK
THE PLACE OF
MORGANA'S
CAT.

AND NOW BY
AGAMOTTO,
BY HOGGOTH AND
OSHTUR--
BY YOU THREE WHO
ARE VISHANTI,
FAMED BEYOND ALL
SPHERE OR STAR...

HEED THE CALL OF
DOCTOR STRANGE,
SCION OF THE
ANCIENT ONE!
BY THE POWER THAT
YOU GRANT ME
SHALL MORDO BE
UNDONE!

AND THEN, IN ONE NERVE-
SHATTERING INSTANT, THE
BODILY FORM OF BARON
MORDO SEEMS TO EXPLODE
... DISPERSING THROUGHOUT
THE DIMENSION!

IT IS OVER! ONCE MORDO WAS OVERCOME, HIS MAGIC WAS NEGATED... ALL IS RETURNING TO NORMAL!

MORDO MAY NOT BE MY DEADLIEST Foe, BUT HE IS THE MOST PERSISTENT! I MUST BE READY FOR HIM, IF... NO, WHEN HE STRIKES AGAIN!



MORGANA IS STILL DAZED BY HER ORDEAL. A MINOR SPELL OF FORGETFULNESS WILL RESTORE HER PIECE OF MIND AND SPARE ME ANY AWKWARD EXPLANATIONS.

OH! DID I FAINT AGAIN?

NO, YOU MERELY LOST YOUR FOOTING! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!



YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOTTEN SO CLUMSY LATELY, I...

NO! S-SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED HERE! I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT, BUT IT WAS HORRIBLE! AND YOU... YOU WERE THAT DEMON I SAW AT THE BANK!



WH-WHAT AM I SAYING? AM I LOSING MY MIND?

ASTOUNDING! HER MIND IS PARTIALLY REJECTING MY SPELL!

YOU'RE PERFECTLY SANE, MORGANA! THERE IS NOTHING SUPERNATURAL AT WORK HERE... AND IT MAY BE YOU!



ME?

SOON, AFTER A REASSURING EXPLANATION...

THEN I'LL EXPECT YOU AT MY TOWNHOUSE TOMORROW. THERE IS MUCH WE MUST INVESTIGATE.

I-I'LL BE THERE, STEPHEN.



--I'D BETTER FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT!

THIS IS ALL SO WEIRD. I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING SOME ODD POWER. BUT IF I DO--



AND SPEAKING OF FINDING THINGS... WHERE'S MAGELLAN?

THERE YOU ARE, YOU BAD CAT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

